

## How Wingy Got His Name

2630 words

Me and Wingy, we couldn't get enough of the bands. Friday and Saturday nights there would always be a Pontchartrain boat that would just sit tied up at the landing and be used for dancing. Every chance we got we'd make a beeline right down there to the lakeside and we'd be laying in a little cove that we had for ourselves real close to the steamboat quays; a prime little spot that we always used. Of course, we only did it in the summer when it was warm and dry and the bands played out on deck 'cos listenin' to a good band blowing inside while we was outside was a no no - that was worse than hearin' a bad band. Thing is though, back then there wasn't no such thing as a bad band. Me and Wingy would lie under them trees with some stuff we'd glauced from old Barnard's store over in Milneburg and we'd feel like we was kings.

What we'd do is go to [register as a new reader or login now if already registered](#) picked up from 'Herrmann's Book of Magic'. Man! what a book that was - and that cover with all them black skulls with red rays coming out the eyes! We loved that book me and Wingy. Anyway, while I was mesmerizin' Barnard, Wingy would grab a bottle of something useful from out back where the old man kept it hid from the law. We never felt bad about pilfering from him 'cos he never got to knowing and he had that much money it didn't matter - nobody with a wine-red closed-sedan Studebaker is short of dough is he? No, old Barnard was a big butter and egg man alright but me and Wingy never had no voot between us. I said to Wingy that he only kept the store going as an excuse to stay away from his old missus but Wingy said he did it so he could look at that Cassie he had helpin' on Saturdays when it got busy. I reckon Wingy could have been right too because she sure wasn't no good for nothin' 'cept lookin' at. She just stood around like a canceled stamp; acting all demure while old Barnard climbed up the ladder to the top shelf with his creaky legs. Cassie wasn't coy for real though; me and Wingy heard her and Joe Fitz' in his old Roadster one night: no,